

Habitat: Found around sea grass beds and reef areas
Distribution: India (Great Nicobar Island), Sri Lanka and North Pacific, Japan, Laccadive Sea, Indonesia and Philippines.

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23. *BALITORA BRUCEI* (GRAY) AND *GLYPTOTHORAX TELCHITTA* (HAMILTON),
TWO NEW REPORTS FOR ARUNACHAL PRADESH, INDIA¹

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Weekly samplings of fish fauna were initiated from three stations near the Police Colony (27°04.697' N and 93°35.809' E) Itanagar, Papum Pare district, Arunachal Pradesh, since September 2004. A total of 45 species of fishes and two crustaceans were captured, using a cast net of 2.01 m diameter and mesh size of 7 sq. mm. Among the fishes caught till February 27, 2005, individuals of *Balitora brucei* appeared regularly in the catches from September, 2004 to end February, 2005. Although *B. brucei* specimens were captured regularly during this period their numbers were always found to be very low, with one or two individuals appearing in each catch except for February 27, 2005 when the number increased to four individuals. However, no specimens of *B. brucei* have appeared in the catch since. Samples of *B. brucei*, preserved in 10% formalin, are deposited in G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development (GBPIHED), N.E. Unit (Collection No. GBP-NE/FF/18, dated 14/09/04).

During the sampling on December 7, 2004, a single individual of *Glyptothorax telchitta* was caught with specimens of *Garra gotyla gotyla*, *Garra amandalei*, *Psilorhynchus balitora*, and *Barilius bendelisis*. This specimen has been preserved and deposited in the Unit's collection (Collection No. GBP-NE/FF/37, dated 07/12/04).

B. brucei were found mostly attached to the boulders in fast moving waters, especially on stones covered with fine

algae. *G. telchitta* was found predominantly in the medium current water with slippery stones in river bed and big boulders surrounded.

Balitora brucei have been reported from different parts of India (Talwar and Jhingran 1991; Menon 1999), as well as Bangladesh (Talwar and Jhingran 1991; Kottelat 1998), Bhutan (Talwar and Jhingran 1991; Kottelat 1998) and Nepal (Shrestha 1990; Shrestha 1999). The species have been reported from the Indian states of Assam, Meghalaya and northern West Bengal (Kottelat 1988; Menon 1999; Kapoor *et al.* 2002).

In India, *Glyptothorax telchitta* has been reported from Manipur (Talwar and Jhingran 1991), Mizoram (Kar *et al.* 2000). The species is also reported from the north-eastern states of Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura (Sen 2000) It is also known from the Vindhya range of mountains, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, where it is common (Talwar and Jhingran 1991). There appears to be no report of either species from Arunachal Pradesh and hence, this is the first report for both *Balitora brucei* and *Glyptothorax telchitta* from the state.

1. *Balitora brucei* (Gray) (Fig.1)

1 ex., Weight 4.80 gm, Total length 78.77 mm, Standard length 68.52 mm, Head length 14.46 mm, Head width 13.09 mm, Head depth 4.48 mm, Body depth 9.47 mm, eye diameter 1.33 mm, Interorbital distance 6.21 mm, Nasal distance

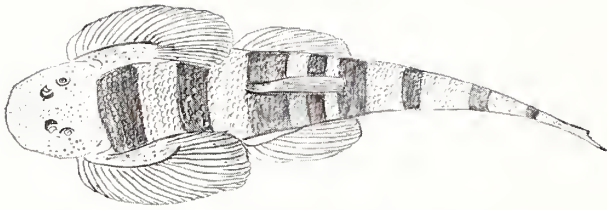


Fig. 1: Dorsal view of *Balitora brucei*

4.95 mm, Caudal peduncle 3.92 mm.

Diagnostic characters: D i 7-8, P i 20-21, V i 10, A 5-6, C 17-18. Dorsal fin originates opposite of ventral, head depressed, mouth ventral, eye small, colour brownish, brown blotches dorsally (8-10) and laterally, dirty yellowish ventrally, lateral line complete, pectoral and ventral fin placed horizontally with brown tinge, pectoral broader than ventral, lower lobe of caudal fin longer than upper with black tinge. Skin rough to touch with minute tubercles.

Behaviour: The fish can tolerate high current waters with algae covered boulders, pebbles. Pectoral and ventral fin, and rays help the fish to anchor to the substratum. It feeds on fine algae on substratum and minute sand particles entangled.

2. *Glyptothorax telchitta* (Hamilton) (Fig. 2)

1 ex., Weight 3.60 gm, Total length 78.08 mm, Standard length 66.25 mm, Head length 15.22 mm, Head width 9.29 mm, Head depth 7.39 mm, Body depth 10.16 mm, Eye diameter 1.25 mm, Interorbital distance 3.52 mm, Nasal distance 2.42 mm, Caudal peduncle 3.89 mm.

Diagnostic characters: D i. 5, P i. 8, V i. 5, A ii. 8, C 17. Height of dorsal almost equals height of pectoral, outer

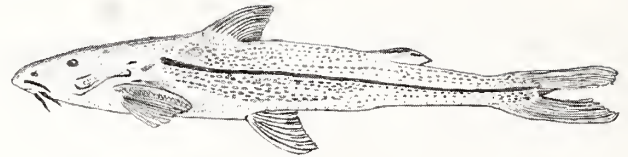


Fig. 2: Lateral view of *Glyptothorax telchitta*

mandibular barbel reaches the gill opening, Maxillary barbel reaches up to orbit (versus posterior end of orbit Day, 1878), base of adipose equal to the base of rayed dorsal. Jaws unequal, upper the longer. Eye small, caudal fin deeply forked. Colour blackish with yellowish tinge and two yellowish blotches at the shoulder on both sides of the origin of dorsal fin. Lateral line complete. Occipital process not reaching basal bone of dorsal fin. Adhesive apparatus on thorax longer than broad without any central pit. All barbels shorter than head. Skin tuberculated.

Behaviour: The species is a nocturnal predator and benthopelagic in habitat. It attaches itself to the river bed and remains under the gaps and holes of rocks and boulders. The nasal and mandibular barbels seem to play an important role to identify prey. The species is carnivorous having minute teeth, serrated internally.

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